

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board

Municipal Tour

March 31, 2012

Present:

Linda Noble Carl Brunetti Bob Turner Paul DiDomenico

Richard Foster Domenic Ricci

Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond Public Works Director

Michael Gagnon

Kevin Bryson, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair

The meeting began at 8:05 am.

Town Hall

The amount requested for the repairs of the heat distribution system is an up-to estimate provided by the company that currently does work on the system.

The Town is currently running on a single thermostat that works, but there are actually 3 that would operating once fixed.

Highway Garage

They installed new gas tanks because there were environmental issues with the old ones due to an inside wall breach.

There were also additions of a safety gate where each employee has

their own key and security cameras.

It was noted that the Town could get a cheaper rate for purchasing gas in bulk, but that the savings would be diminished by delivery rates.

The Town had considered getting rid of their own gas tanks when they had environmental issues and using regular gas stations instead of replacing their own tanks, but it was noted that general gas stations don't have back-up generators which would be essential to Town services during storms which include loss of power.

The Town has already begun its spring landscaping because the weather began getting nice early this year.

One of the reasons for a New Senior Bus purchase is that the current one has been under repairs repeatedly for front end issues, and the older one is used for transportation by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Public Works Department received a laptop from the IT Department to help with organization and communication.

There are currently 2 full-time mechanics working for the Public Works Department.

The Budget Board questioned a gap in the security fencing towards the rear of the Public Works parking lot, and it was noted that the gap had existed there for the memorable past.

There will be some jersey barriers installed at the salt shed as is required by DEM to separate materials that had been swept from the streets that may contain hazardous materials before they are brought to Rhode Island Resource Recovery.

The Town Administrator noted that the schedule is to purchase a new dump truck every 2 years, and to pay for them over a 3-year schedule.

The Budget Board questioned whether there was a log kept for each vehicle, and it was noted that there is a daily log kept for each vehicle including mileage which is collected on a monthly basis.

Quinnville Park

There would be basketball court resurfacing for \$42,000 which would include taking it up completely, grinding and replacing it at the same size.

The playground equipment would include a merry-go-round, and the Budget Board questioned if there were any specifications provided for what the equipment would be.

The current equipment is for mixed ages, and it was noted that the only changes to what kind of equipment is there are for safety.

The Budget board noted safety issues that had been observed at Lonsdale Elementary which had to do more with the finish work than the installation itself, which was done by the Town's grounds employees.

It was noted that there were oak trees that were dying that would be looked at as well as part of the reworking of the park.

Lime Acres

The grant has been approved unofficially for \$175,000 in matching funds from DEM.

The rough estimates of what the Town actually wants to do with the park are closer to \$525,000.

It was noted that even the Middle School Girls' teams use the fields, so they are looking at things like dugouts, new facilities with sewer hookup, and a new shelter.

They will also be looking at the bleachers.

The playground has some new pieces that can be kept, and some older ones that need to be replaced.

The sewer may require tying into the state road and its own pump, but would not require ripping up the road so that the park could stay open during renovations.

The location of the shelter may require the relocation of the basketball courts, which do also need to be replaced.

The traffic pattern has already been changed some by moving large rocks at the sides back to allow a more extended area through the driving path.

There will be plans submitted for all of the proposed renovations.

The tennis courts don't get organized use, but the Town Administrator discussed the need for the High School upper tennis courts to be redone. He felt there was money in the budget to do so in the budget and they would not be reimbursable if the Town waited for the freeze to end in 2014 because of new regulations.

The lower courts at the High School cost \$105,000 including conduit work.

The DEM matching grant does not require any specific environmental work with the wetlands, but the wetlands do prevent the park from

being extended back further.

On a side note, there is some roadwork that needs to be done and the Town tries to coordinate with utilities (especially sewer and water) to make sure everything is done in the correct order if there is other work going on.

The plans for the park will include what playground will be purchased and what pieces need to be replaced.

Senior Center

There are already concrete footings for the cover of the bocce court. It was noted that the court itself could use evening out.

The Town Administrator will check on information as to the scope of work and the amount it will cost for the project.

The Budget Board noted that the project could be considered for safety as much as for aesthetics because it would shield from the sun and heat as well.

The interior of the Senior Center seemed warm for an off-cycle, but it was noted that could be due to a high-efficiency system.

Chase Farm

They face an ongoing problem with mice and squirrels in the Chase Farm house because of its location and unoccupied status.

It was noted that the costs to bring the whole house up to code would be far greater than the value of the actual house.

The bathrooms do work, and Civil War Re-enactors use the house for their meetings

It is also used for storage for things like Parks and Recreation.

The idea of deeding it over to Hearthside so they could maintain it and make it more a part of the historical area was discussed.

Barney Pond

The dam is in violation per DEM because the low level outlet is not functioning causing a leak at the bottom which is making it unstable.

They would lower the level of the pond to fix the low level outlet.

The Town is under Consent Agreement with DEM.

The new plan would include railings and would bring the pond/dam completely up to compliance as of now, without knowing what would be required in the future.

One of the things being looked at as a future requirement could be armoring, and the Town will be looking at the cost of that.

The project is proposed at \$1.1 million, which in discussion does not include the replacement of the bridge that used to cross the dam.

Once the project is complete and the dam is fixed, the Public Works Department would come in and landscape and clean the property up.

Library

The addition will be going off of the right side of the building and will be 2,000 square feet.

The project will be going to bid in about a month, which includes the addition only.

The Library will then transfer funds from grants and donations in for renovations of the existing space.

The entrance to the building would now be in the addition portion of the building.

Albion School St. Park

There would be a new walkway with a gazebo, new electric service, and cutting back the parking lot which doesn't get used much

The State will be redoing School St.

Manville Literacy Center

The Friends of the Literacy Center do their own fundraising and are also supported by Target.

There is one Director and an assistant employed by the Literacy Center.

There is a residency requirement to attend the Center, and the schools even refer children to the program.

There were Block Grants that paid for the refurbishment of the basement which will be used as storage.

It will include shelving and a permanent de-humidifier.

The building is at capacity, but they do feel they have fulfilled their target users.

The Town has considered building a similar center in other parts of Town, but have not yet identified sufficient need.

Manville Park

The park was given to the Town by the Veterans Association/Manville Park Association.

The entire park was redesigned last year, including parking/driveway, clearing of trees that were overgrown, fields dug up and regraded, and a walking path added that entails the entire park.

There was some vandalism right after the park was redone, but none since.

There are no sprinkler systems because of the ledge situation, but they are looking into installing a water cannon.

Manville is the Soccer Association's home field, as well as having the largest playground in Town.

It is also used for outings and by Little League and Farm League on the back field.

The soccer fields are now regulations size.

There was a new building installed which includes restrooms, storage, and a utility room.

The dugouts are an example of what the Town wants to do at Lonsdale.

The amounts that were over-expended in the project were all in the grounds costs (ex. When they hit old foundations when digging up the fields, etc.) and for utilities for when they had to install new poles.

The Public Works Staff did all of the weeding and fertilizer work because they are licensed.

The Basketball Court was resealed and painted.

The next thing they may want to do is add a fishing pier, because the pond is still stocked.

Handy Pond Dam

The dam is owned by the Town, but the surrounding areas are owned by the State.

The dam is a high hazard dam, and the Town is in a Consent Agreement for it.

It is unclear when the state last came out to inspect the dam, but the Town sends them their engineering study of it.

There are currently no violations.

There is a foundation or dam under the dam water which can be seen in aerial pictures.

The gatehouse fell apart and fell into the dam, but it's not clear whether the Town or State owns it.